

This is an official

DHEC Health Update

Distributed via Health Alert Network
20 October 2008

Seasonal Influenza Surveillance

This update is to provide healthcare professionals with the latest information regarding:

- o SC Influenza-related reporting networks (State mandated and Voluntary components)
- o State-mandated influenza conditions to be reported by healthcare providers
- o Voluntary influenza monitoring networks in which healthcare providers may enroll
- o Resource Links
- o Attachments: Voluntary influenza network enrollment form, Positive Rapid Influenza Worksheet & local health department contact information.

Overview of SC Influenza Reporting Networks (State Mandated and Voluntary Components)

South Carolina has both one mandated and two voluntary influenza reporting systems that continue reporting throughout the year.

State-Mandated Reporting

State-mandated influenza-related reportable conditions are 1) positive influenza cultures, 2) positive rapid antigen tests, 3) pediatric influenza-related deaths and 4) influenza A, novel or avian (not H1 or H3).

Influenza Cultures

Viral isolates obtained by culturing nasopharyngeal, throat or other respiratory specimens are the gold standard for influenza virus detection. Submission of influenza cultures is essential for determining the circulating influenza strains and subtypes, such as Influenza A subtype H3N2. Viral isolate surveillance also guides influenza vaccine composition decisions made by CDC and WHO for the following season. Laboratory reports of influenza culture results should include patient name, age and address, including county and should be reported to DHEC within 7 days.

Rapid Antigen Tests

Rapid antigen tests detect influenza virus type A or B, specifically, or types A and B without distinguishing them, from nasopharyngeal or throat specimens, or other specimens, depending on the rapid antigen testing kit used. Test kit results are available to the clinician in approximately 30 minutes. These kits can NOT determine influenza subtypes.

A positive rapid influenza worksheet is attached and should be used for reporting the total number of positive rapid antigen test results each week. Worksheets may be faxed or emailed to the local health department. Those wishing to email weekly data should call their local health department to make arrangements. Providers should submit worksheets Monday at noon for the preceding week.

Pediatric Influenza-related Deaths

Deaths in children up to and including 17 years of age thought to be influenza-related is reportable to DHEC within 7 days. DHEC will investigate such cases and submit information on these deaths to the CDC for national monitoring purposes.

Influenza A, novel or avian (not H1 or H3)

Human infections with novel or avian influenza A virus (not H1 or H3) must be reported **IMMEDIATELY** to DHEC. If CDC is notified first, CDC will redirect provider inquiries back to

DHEC so that DHEC can facilitate investigations into such cases. Infections with novel influenza or avian influenza will be added to the SC 2008 List of Reportable Conditions.

Volunteer Influenza Monitoring Networks

The voluntary influenza monitoring networks consists of two components: 1) submission of specimens for viral culture and isolation and 2) monitoring and reporting of influenza-like illness (ILI). These voluntary networks provide information on influenza virus strain and subtype and influenza disease burden. Providers are encouraged to enroll in one or both voluntary monitoring systems. Providers wishing to enroll should complete the attached enrollment form or contact Chasisty Springs at 803-898-0870.

DHEC Viral Isolate Network

Culture and isolation of influenza specimens is essential for providing information on circulating influenza strain and subtype. DHEC provides culture media, packaging, processing and shipping labels free of charge to practices wishing to participate. Those wishing to enroll should contact the DHEC Virology department at 803-896-0819 or complete the enrollment form attached.

Influenza-Like Illness Network

This network monitors the number of patients presenting with influenza-like symptoms in the absence of another known cause. ILI is defined as fever (temperature of >100°F) plus either a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of another known cause. Providers submit weekly reports to the CDC of the total number of patients seen each week stratified by age group.

REFERENCES

- **DHEC Influenza Monitoring Website**
www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flu.htm
- **DHEC Influenza-related updates and advisories**
www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flualert.htm
- **SC 2008 Reportable Disease List**
www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf
- **HHS Pandemic Influenza website**
www.pandemicflu.gov/
- **CDC Hospitals Isolation Guidance**
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/gl_isolation.html
- **CDC Cough Etiquette Guidance**
www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphgiene.htm

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of outbreaks/clusters of cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at:
http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).



Voluntary Flu Monitoring Network(s) Enrollment Form

Date _____

Practice Type	
Practice Name	
Office Contact Person	
Address Street	
Address PO Box	
County	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Phone #	
Fax #	
Preferred E-mail Address [for weekly e-mail flu updates]	
<u>Medical License #</u> (Viral Isolate Network)	

Please check all interested in:

- ☐ ILI Enrollment only.
- ☐ Viral Isolate network only. NEED LICENSE NUMBER.
- ☐ BOTH ILI and Viral Isolate Networks.

Fax to Chasisity Springs at 803-898-0897

**Positive rapid influenza test results summary worksheet
2008-2009**



Guidance for use of this worksheet:

- a) Positive influenza viral culture results must still be reported with name, age, address and strain type using the DHEC 1129 cards.
- b) Fax or email completed worksheet information **NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE MONDAY OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK** to the Region-specific Health Department fax/phone/addresses (see below). These contact numbers are also available at:
http://www.dhec.sc.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf
- c) This worksheet is the preferred method of reporting positive rapid antigen tests in the 2008-2009 season.
- d) Facilities using this worksheet are required to enter the:
 - a. Reporting period date (week beginning on Sunday),
 - b. Facility/Practice name,
 - c. County in which the facility/practice is located, and
 - d. Influenza type being identified (e.g., Influenza A, Influenza B, Influenza A/B, or unknown).
- e) If methodologies change such that a different influenza type is being identified during the influenza season, please update the "type of influenza being identified" section of this worksheet prior to weekly submission.

For the week beginning _____ (Sunday – Saturday)

Reporting Facility/Practice: _____

County: _____

Type of influenza (A, B, A or B, or unknown) being identified via test methodology: _____

	Positive for Influenza A	Positive for Influenza B	Positive for Influenza A or B
Sunday			
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
<u>Weekly Totals</u>			

Regional Public Health Offices – 2008

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

Anderson, Oconee
220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-4358
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

Greenville, Pickens
PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Region 3

Chester, Lancaster, York
PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Region 3 (continued)

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland
2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Region 4

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter
PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg
PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 533-7134
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg
1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526-5482
Phone: (843) 915-8804
Fax: (843) 365-0085
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 953-0060
Fax: (843) 953-0051
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 549-1516, x-214
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



www.scdhec.gov

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.